that certain criminal gangs were active outside- the AH India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Safdarjung hospital and were pilfering belongings of patients and their relatives. The Delhi Police have reported that no such activities have come to theit notice. However, the police stag posted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and in the Safdarjung hospital have been directed to be vigilant.

Sale of Indian skulls in Nepal

1380. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a). whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in 'Nav Bharat Times' Patna Edition dated 12th August, *1991* captioned as "Bhartiya Naraiund Nepal Mein Sazkar Bikte Hein"; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to stop this henious trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO); (a) Yes, Sir

lb) The Government has seen reports that some Indian nationals are smuggling human *skulls, to* Nepal and that the Nepa-lese police, as per local laws, destroy the skulls when seized. Ministry of Home Affairs has been informed to alert thei State Governments concerned to take necessary action and instruct the concerned authorities to take measures *to* prevent such smuggling.

Statue of persons of Indian origin living in Hong Kong

1381. SHRI AJIT PK. JOGI;
KUMARI ALIA;

Will the Minister of EXERNAL AF-FAIRS, be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons of Indian origin now; living, in Hong Kong arc likely- to become stateless when Hong Koag reverts to China in 1997;

(b) if so, the number of such. Indians likely to be affected;

(c) the present status of such persons with regard *to* their nationality/Citizen ship;

(d) the action proposed *to* be taken by Government of India to prevent such persons becoming State-less;

(e) whether the matter was takes Bp by Government with the Government of U. K.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid, an the Table of. the House

statement

(a) to (c) Thera am about 50P& person* of Indian origin in Hong Kong, who holi either British Dependant Territories Citizenship (BTDC) or British National (Overseas) (BN(0)). paesportSv. Issued by the. British Government. These *persons* are part tf a group of approzimatelj* 3.2S million persons with similar states (British Dependant Territories Citizenship/British National (Overseas)- in Hong Kong. The holders of these documents are not entitled to the automatic right of abode in the United Kingdom. This category of persons is, Jiowever, expected to qualify for continued abode in Hong Kong after the territory reverts to Chinese! sovereignty in* 1997

(d) to (f) The matter has been raised with the British Goverment. It has been the consistent pneitiop of the- Government of India that the British Government has basic responsibility towards, fhia group of persons and that it should take neccarry steps to safeguard the status of these persons as British cttiMa*